(b) if so, the details of the entries on which such US sanctions continue, and the US Government's response to India's request for withdrawal of US sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) US imposed sanctions on various Indian entities after the 1998 nuclear tests. Some of these sanctions have been removed but several organisations belonging to the Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and Defence Research and Development Organisation remain on the Entity List under which licenses are required from the Bureau of Industry and Security of the U.S. Department of Commerce for U.S. exports to these organizations. Government continues to press for the removal of such organisations from the Entity List.

US offer to supply nuclear technology to India

3135. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has offered to supply country's nuclear energy technology and F-16 mostly advanced system and civilian nuclear cooperation to India;

(b) whether US has also expressed its willingness to engage in matters related to nuclear as well as non-nuclear issues including space;

(c) if so, to what extent India has accepted US offer and by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) whether this US offer will not have any bearing on India's plan nuclear energy project schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) During the visit of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to New Delhi on March 16, 2005, discussions were held on the need for a positive US response to India's growing energy demands, including nuclear energy. On March 25, 2005, a Senior Administration Official stated in Washington D.C. in the course of a background briefing that the United States would be willing to discuss civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. The India-U.S. Energy Dialogue

has been announced during EAM's visit to Washington D.C. on April 13-14, 2005. The energy dialogue that the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and Energy Secretary Bodman will lead together recognizes the importance of addressing growing energy demands while taking into account their environmental implications. The three main components are: civil nuclear energy, hydrocarbons and cleaner technologies.

On March 25, 2005, the US Under Secretary for Defence communicated approval for US companies to respond to the Indian Request for Information (RFI) for the Multi Role Combat aircraft tender.

The United States had proposed a Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation between our two countries. During the visit of EAM to Washington D.C. on April 13-14, 2005, the two sides announced the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation and agreed on its terms of reference. Our goal is to promote synergies in all aspects of space collaboration, including statellite fabrication and launch.

(d) These subjects remain under discussion. Government will take decisions on matters relating to nuclear energy and defence based on India's national interest.

Joining of Container Security Initiative

3136. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the pursuance of the decision to joint the U.S.-led Container Security Initiative, Government proposed to send an inter-Ministerial team to Washington to work out modalities for operation of the partnership;

(b) if so, whether such a team has since been sent to the US and the outcome of their visit; and

(c) what are the precise objectives of the "Initiative" and what benefits are likely to accrue to India thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Committee of Secretaries approved negotiations for the introduction of the Container Security Initiative